

DR. KING SLAIN BY SNIPER IN MEMPHIS

Johnson Delays Departure for Hawaii Meeting

BY TOM LAMBERT
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — President Johnson late Thursday postponed his departure for a Honolulu conference on Vietnam strategy pending developments in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Several hours before he was scheduled to board his plane for a flight to California en route to Hawaii the President was informed of Dr. King's assassination in Memphis. After expressing his shock and appealing for understanding in a televised comment at the White House, the President said, "I am postponing my trip to Hawaii until tomorrow."

The President had planned to fly to California Thursday night, spend the night at March Air Force Base near Riverside and have a breakfast meeting with former President Dwight D. Eisenhower this morning before continuing on to Honolulu. The departure times and the possibility of the Eisenhower visit are now uncertain.

Delay on Decision
George Christian, White House press secretary, said "We'll get up tomorrow and make a decision on departure."

However, there was speculation that in view of the situation Mr. Johnson might not go to Hawaii at this time.

In Honolulu the President is scheduled to meet with U.S. officials from Saigon, including Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, to discuss strategy.

He also is scheduled to meet with South Korean President Park Chung Hee, who reportedly is uneasy about Hanoi's willingness—and Washington's agreement—to talk about "unconditional cessation of bombing and all other war acts" by the United States as a possible step toward peace negotiations.

It was not known if South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu would go to Honolulu. He also is said to be uneasy about the forthcoming American-North Vietnamese meeting.

While the President was described as cheered by Hanoi's offer, Washington officials cautioned against any undue optimism that the offer indicated a peace settlement was in prospect.

The President's decision to delay his trip came at the end of a hectic day in which he:

—Flew to New York for the

Please Turn to Page 13, Col. 1

THE WEATHER

Night and morning coastal low clouds, otherwise partly cloudy today. Variable high clouds Saturday. Light smog today. High today and Saturday near 74. Low Saturday near 54. High Thursday, 75; low, 53.

Complete weather information on Page 23, Part 3.



ON HIS LAST MARCH—Dr. Martin Luther King locked arms with two aides as he led a protest march last Thursday in Memphis that ended in violence and looting. The Nobel Peace Prize-winner escaped injury that day but was fatally shot Thursday as he stood on balcony of his Memphis motel.

THE SECRET SEARCH FOR PEACE
Wilson Switch at U.S. Behest Blamed for Lost Opportunity

BY DAVID KRASLOW and STUART H. LOORY
Times Staff Writers
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WASHINGTON—With the White House dictating the moves on the transatlantic cable, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson switched and toughened a Vietnam peace proposal he had given, just hours before, to Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin last year.

COURT OVERTURNS IMPEACHMENT OF PANAMA PRESIDENT

PANAMA, (U)—Panama's supreme court ruled today that the impeachment process against President Marco A. Robles was illegal.

A majority opinion held that the president had been deprived of his constitutional rights during the process that culminated with his conviction and dismissal by the National Assembly March 24.

The court voted 8-1 for the president.

The court was acting on an injunction, issued on behalf of Robles, which challenged the legality and constitutionality of the impeachment process.

No immediate comment was available from the political opposition, but the National Guard, Panama's army, has backed the president.

McCarthy Would Cut Powers of FBI, CIA, Draft Boards

BY CARL GREENBERG
Times Political Editor

BERKELEY — Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy said Thursday that if he becomes President he will check the power of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and draft boards under Gen. Lewis B. Hershey.

In the first speech of his California primary campaign, the Democratic presidential candidate declared the three agencies "need to be somewhat altered—they have become almost independent sources of power."

The Minnesota senator, who arrived here from Washington and will fly to Los Angeles today, addressed a crowd of students in UC Berkeley's Greek Theater that campus police estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000.

There was a large contingent of Peace and Freedom Party adherents, armed with placards, in the stands, and McCarthy experienced heckling that his staff said was somewhat rougher than any to which he has so far been subjected. McCarthy's attack on the CIA, FBI and the draft boards was the toughest he has made since he became a candidate.

When he referred to the draft boards and mentioned the name of Gen. Hershey, Selective Service director, the students gave him the loudest burst of applause of his entire speech.

"Since this is a government of men as well as laws, I have in mind to

Please Turn to Page 3, Col. 2

White Man Sought in Killing of Noted Civil Rights Leader

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS and JACK NELSON
Times Staff Writers

MEMPHIS—Dr. Martin Luther King was shot to death by a sniper here Thursday. The 1964 Nobel Peace Prize-winner, America's leading exponent of nonviolence in the civil rights movement, was shot as he stood on the second floor balcony at a motel, talking to aides in a parking lot below.

He was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead of a bullet wound in the neck.

Police said the shot apparently came from a brick building directly across the street from the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was staying.

An all-points bulletin was issued for the assassin, described by witnesses as Caucasian, about 6 feet tall, between 26 and 32 years old, about 165 pounds, wearing dark clothing.

Dr. King's aides told police a man answering that description fled from the building across the street a few moments after the fatal shot was fired. Police said later they had no definite lead on the assassin.

Rifle Dropped to Ground

They said he jumped into a car parked near the building, dropping a rifle, fitted with a telescopic sight to the sidewalk as he ran. The car sped away.

Memphis Police and Fire Director Frank C. Holloman, at a press conference early today, identified the rifle "which we think was used to kill Dr. King" as a 30-06 Remington pump action model with a telescopic sight.

He said the rifle and suitcase were found in an entryway a short distance from the hotel at 420 S. Main Street that the suspect checked into between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

Holloman said the rifle was immediately turned over to the FBI.

Holloman said he had "certain new evidence" that would help to identify the assassin, but did not reveal it.

Guardsmen Move Into City

Gov. Buford Ellington immediately ordered 4,000 national guardsmen into the city, and Mayor Henry Loeb announced a curfew at nightfall. All police and sheriff's deputies were called to patrol duty.

Nevertheless, incidents of violence, including fire bombings and shooting, were reported within an hour after the Negro leader's death was announced.

Mayor Loeb later declared a three-day period of mourning for Dr. King.

Paul Hess, assistant administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital, said Dr. King died of the wound in the neck. He said doctors in the emergency room were unable to stop the bleeding despite immediate surgical efforts.

Please Turn to Page 6, Col. 1

President Condemns Violence, Says U.S. Is Shocked, Saddened

By Associated Press

President Johnson said Thursday night America was "shocked and saddened" by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The President went on to condemn violence, lawlessness and divisiveness.

In a brief, solemn message to the nation, Mr. Johnson disclosed that

because of the slaying in Memphis he had canceled plans for a political appearance Thursday night and postponed until today his scheduled midnight departure for Hawaii and a Vietnam strategy conference.

The President appeared in the doorway of the White House offices, stern-faced, and spoke on all television and radio networks.

"America is shocked and saddened by the brutal slaying tonight of Dr. Martin Luther King," Mr. Johnson said.

"I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King, who lived by nonviolence."

"I pray that his family can find comfort in the memory of all he tried to do for the land he loved so well. I have just conveyed the sympathy of Mrs. Johnson and myself to his widow, Mrs. King."

"I know that every American of goodwill joins me in mourning the death of this outstanding leader and in praying for peace and understanding throughout this land."

"We can achieve nothing by lawlessness and divisiveness among

Please Turn to Page 8, Col. 1

FEATURE INDEX

- ART NEWS, Page 7, Part 4.
- BOOK REVIEW, Page 4, Part 4.
- BRIDGE, Page 9, Part 4.
- CLASSIFIED, Pages 1-20, Part 5.
- COMICS, Page 7, Part 2.
- CROSSWORD, Page 19, Part 5.
- DAY IN SACRAMENTO, Back of Part 2.
- EDITORIALS, COLUMNS, Pages 4, 5, Part 2.
- ENTERTAINMENT, SOCIETY, Pages 1-29, Part 4.
- FINANCIAL, Pages 16-23, Part 3.
- METROPOLITAN NEWS, Part 2.
- MOTION PICTURES, Pages 18-26, Part 4.
- MUSIC, Pages 20, 25, Part 4.
- OBITUARIES, Back of Part 3.
- SPORTS, Pages 1-15, Part 3.
- TV-RADIO, Pages 28, 29, Part 4.
- VITALS, WEATHER, Page 23, Part 3.